



**In the Supreme Court of Iowa**

**Adoption of New and Amended )  
Rules Governing Court )  
Interpreters—Chapters 47 and 48 )      **Order**  
of the Iowa Court Rules )**

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The Iowa Supreme Court today approves new Iowa Court Rules Chapter 47—Court Interpreter and Translator Rules, and amendments to Chapter 48—Code of Professional Conduct for Judicial Branch Interpreters.

In 2001, state court administration appointed the Court Interpreter Policies Advisory Committee (advisory committee) to guide state court administration, the supreme court, and the office of professional regulation on matters related to the service of court interpreters. The advisory committee drafted the original rules governing court interpreters, which were adopted in 2004, and which had not been substantively changed since then. In 2013, the advisory committee submitted proposed amendments to both chapters 47 and 48. Since then, the proposed amendments have been refined and twice submitted for public comment.

After careful consideration of the public comments and of the advisory committee's response to the comments, the supreme court adopts new chapter 47 rules governing court interpreters and translators, and the court adopts amendments to chapter 48 governing the conduct of court reporters and translators.

**New Chapter 47—Court Interpreter and Translator Rules**

A number of components of the original chapter 47 have been retained but amended in the new chapter 47; a number of components in the new chapter 47 are entirely new:

- Rule 47.1 Definitions.

New: provides definitions of key terms used in the chapter.

- Rule 47.2 Minimum qualifications of a court interpreter.

Amended: provides minimum qualifications of a court interpreter; raises minimum age and education level.

- Rule 47.3 Scheduling and appointing a court interpreter.

New and amended: attorney must file application for appointment of court interpreter; provides parameters for scheduling and appointing oral and sign language court interpreters.

- Rule 47.4 Classification of oral language court interpreters.

Amended: sets graduated classifications of oral language court interpreters.

- Rule 47.5 Classification of sign language court interpreters.

Amended: sets graduated classifications of sign language court interpreters.

- Rule 47.6 Iowa roster of court interpreters.

Amended: provides required qualifications for inclusion on the Iowa roster of court interpreters.

- Rule 47.7 Mandatory continuing education.

New: provides for mandatory continuing education for court interpreters on the statewide roster.

- Rule 47.8 Application, test registration, and continuing education fees.

Amended: sets fee levels for court interpreter applications, test registrations, and continuing education.

- Rule 47.9 Language Access to the Courts Advisory Committee.

New: establishes committee, by supreme court appointment, to guide policies of state court administration and the office of professional regulation and to assist in the complaint and disciplinary process.

- Rule 47.10 Complaint and disciplinary process.

New: establishes a complaint and disciplinary process.

- Rule 47.11 Recording of court proceedings.

Amended: provides parameters for recording of interpreted court proceedings.

- Rule 47.12 Court interpreter and translator compensation.

Amended: sets court interpreter and translator compensation.

- Rule 47.13 Written translations of court-related materials.

New: provides definitions of court-related materials and certified translator; establishes priorities of appointment of translators and application process for written translation of court-related materials.

- Rule 47.14 Application of rules to administrative proceedings.

Amended: addresses application of the rules to administrative proceedings.

- Rule 4.15 Administration.

Amended: provides for office of professional regulation administration of qualifications, classifications, examination, continuing education, and discipline of court interpreters.

- Rule 4.16 Immunity.

Amended: clarifies application of State Tort Claims Act for administration of chapter 47 rules and procedures.

## **Amended Chapter 48—Code of Professional Conduct for Court Interpreters and Translators**

Amendments are made to both the canons and the comments to the canons:

- Preamble.  
Rewritten for clarity.
- Applicability.  
Clarification of applicability of the canons to oral and sign language interpreters as well as translators and real time court reporters.
- Definitions.  
Definitions are added to the code.
- Canon 1 *Accuracy and Completeness*.  
Clarification of the comments to canon 1 on qualifications and role of interpreters and addition of comment on team interpreting.
- Canon 2 *Representation of Qualifications*.  
Minor amendments to canon and comment.
- Canon 3 *Impartiality and Avoidance of Conflict of Interest*.  
Minor amendments to comment only.
- Canon 4 *Professional Integrity and Demeanor*.  
Addition of integrity as central feature of code of conduct.
- Canon 5 *Confidentiality*.  
Addition of exception of prevention of death or bodily harm to prohibition of disclosure of privileged or confidential information, with further guidance provided in the comment.
- Canon 6 *Restriction of Public Comment*.

Minor amendment to comment only.

- Canon 7 *Scope of Practice*.

Minor clarification to scope of practice in canon and comment.

- Canon 8 *Assessing and Reporting Impediments to Performance*.

Incorporation of ethical impediment to performance, with amendments to comment.

- Canon 9 *Duty to Report Criminal Convictions and Ethical Violations*.

Restatement and broadening of canon and comment.

- Canon 10 *Professional Development*.

Minor amendments to canon.

The court commends the Court Interpreter Policies Advisory Committee for its excellent work in crafting more comprehensive rules and ethical canons governing the crucial work of oral and sign language interpreters and translators of court-related materials. The new chapter 47 and the amendments to chapter 48 are provided with this order.

The new chapter 47 rules and procedures will require time and attention of judges, attorneys, interpreters, and court personnel to follow and implement. Thus, the court is now issuing these new and amended rules, but the effective date of the rules will be July 1, 2015.

The new chapter 47 of the Iowa Court Rules and the amendments to chapter 48 of the court rules provided with this order are effective July 1, 2015.

Dated this 4th day of December, 2014.

The Supreme Court of Iowa

By Mark S. Cady  
Mark S. Cady, Chief Justice